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X-MEN



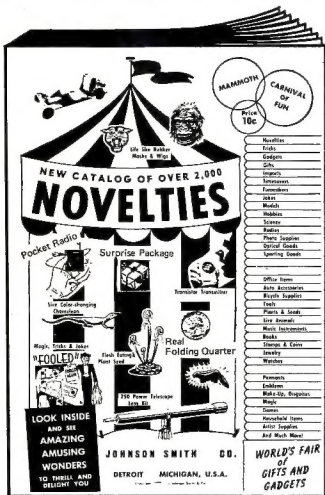
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SUNFIRE
STRIKES!

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X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

THE COMING OF SUNFIRE!

ANTS!

THIS IS A
LAND OF
ANTS...OF
SMUG AND
SMIRKING
INSECTS!

BUT SOON,
THEY SHALL
KNOW THE
OMINOUS
TREAD OF...
SUNFIRE!

A SOMEWHAT
OUTRE-OUTING BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
DON HECK ARTIST
TOM PALMER EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

SPECIAL BULLPEN BUTT-IN:
OUR SINCERE THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO
BASHIN' **POORNIE HECK** FOR PINCH-HITTING THIS MONTH
FOR NEARABOUT **NEAL ADAMS**...WHO'LL BE BACK
WITH OUR MERRY MUTANTS NEXT ISH!
AND NOW, ON WITH THIS ISSUE'S
DEFINITELY DIFFERENT
SAGA...

THE X-MEN is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright ©1969 by Magazine Management Co., Inc., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved. 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 64, January, 1970 issue. Price 15¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate \$2.00 and \$2.50 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscription \$2.75.

THE MENACE OF MAGNETO IS ENDED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING! BUT FOR THE MUTANT X-MEN, OUTCASTS OF A SOCIETY WHICH FEARS AND HATES THEM, THERE CAN BE NO REJOICING...NO RESPIRE! FOR THEM, THERE IS ONLY THE GNAWING DREAD THAT THE NEXT EVIL MUTANT WILL BE THE ONE THEY CANNOT DEFEAT...THE ONE WHO MAY DESTROY THEM, AND THE WORLD THEY SECRETLY DEPEND....!



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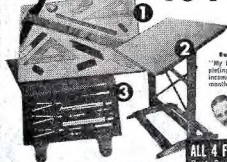
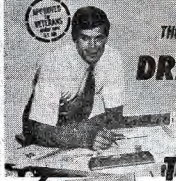
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I SPEAK!
I...
SUNFIRE!

BUT MY
HAND
SHALL
MAKE MY
ONLY
COMMENT
ON THAT
MARBLE
PERFIDY!

SSZZZZ

THROOOOW!

HE BLEW UP
THE MONUMENT
...WITH SOME
KINDA NEAT
RAY!

IT'S
TIME TO
SPLIT...

...BEFORE
HE
DECIDES
IT'S TIME
FOR
TOASTED
FLOWER-
CHILD!

HEADS UP
WALCYON
HEROES!

YOU ARE A
NATION OF
WEAKLINGS...
OF COWARDS!

IS THERE
NO ONE
WHO WILL
DARE
FACE
SUNFIRE
IN BATTLE?

WELL,
PAL,
NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...!

IT'S--ONE
OF THE
X-MEN--
DEFENDING
US!

BUT, I ALWAYS
HEARD...
THEY WERE
CRIMINALS!

HERE'S WHERE
WE GIVE THE
X-MEN'S
TARNISHED
REPUTATION
A MUCH-
NEEDED
BOOSTER
SNOT!

OF COURSE, WE WERE ACTUALLY HOPING THAT YOU WERE OF A LESS HOSTILE PERSUASION!

ANOTHER FEW RECRUITS, AND THE X-MEN COULD BECOME THE FIRST MUTANT BASEBALL TEAM!

THAT IS THE LAST FEEBLE JOKE THAT YOU SHALL MAKE, AMERICAN!

WHOOPS!
DIDN'T REALIZE-- YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO FLY-- WITH ME ON YOUR BACK--!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU DO NOT REALIZE, DOG!

PRAY ONLY THAT YOU SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN MORE OF THEM!

YEEOWWWW!

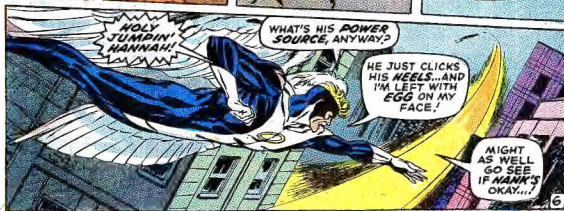
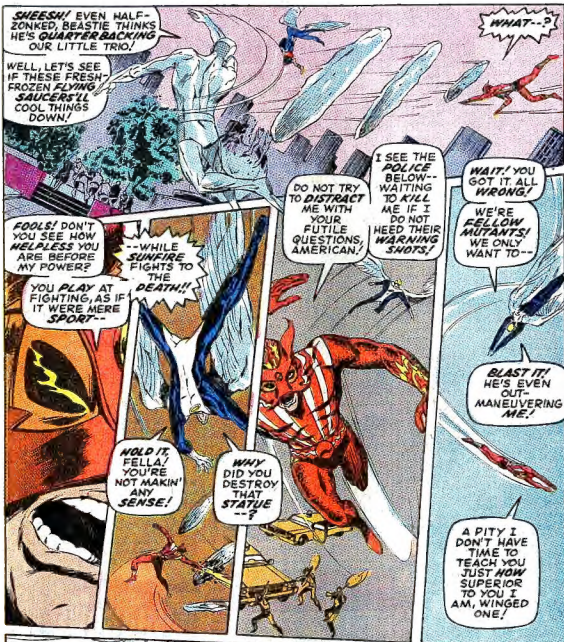
HANK'S IN TROUBLE--
BAD TROUBLE!

GOT TO POUR ON SPEED-- LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

IT'S--NOT NECESSARY TO SEND OUT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANGEL-- BUT THANKS!

ICEMAN--KEEP THAT WOULD--BE ASSASSIN OFF ANGEL'S BACK-- TILL HE CAN DEPOSIT ME SOMEWHERE!

GOT YOU!!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MIXED-UP MEMENTOS MODESTLY GARNISHED WITH MACHIAVELLIAN MEMORABILIA!

ITEM! DR. STRANGE! lives! You didn't think we'd let our swirly sorcerer just vanish without a trace, didja? As a matter of fact, he joins forces with another of our ubiquitous superheroes this month in—ahh, but why tell you? Think of the fun you'll have combing the Checklist and finding him for yourself!

ITEM! One of our artists lives, also! Remember **BASHFUL BARRY SMITH?** Well, he finally sent us a job we've been breathlessly awaiting, all the way from merrie England. It's drawn in an entirely different style from his spectacular superhero scribbles, and you'll find it in **TOWER OF SHADOWS #3**. If he didn't draw it at midnight, inside a haunted house, with a pen dipped in a witch's brew, we'll eat our first edition Lovelatt!

ITEM! Speaking of people who live—the millennium just occurred! During the 69th Art Convention, held recently at New York's famous Statton Hilton Hotel, who actually showed up? Why, none other than **JOLIN' JOEY SINNOTT**, Marvel's own gifted ghost! He came to hear the speeches, see the goings-on, and rap about old times with Stan and the gang. But our leader, loaded with script-writing chores, couldn't make the session, and so he'll probably have to wait another ten years before Jolin' Joe makes it back to the city from his upstate retreat. By the way, those of you who only think of Joe as a top inker should note his pencil work some time! If ever we find a way to add a few more hours to the day, we'll see if we can persuade him to draw a feature for you—we promise it'll be worth the wait!

ITEM! Remember **SCORPIO**, who left us hanging by our thumbs after his sensational appearance in **SHIELD**? Well, the mystery will finally be unravelled in the pages of the current **AVENGERS**. See? Though the mills of Marvel grind slowly, if you wait long enough—!

ITEM! Guess who just called? Wouldja be wandering **WANDERING WALLY WOOD?** (We used to call him Wondrons till he took off for parts unknown.) Anyway, after a long pow-wow there's a chance that you'll be seeing WW's wizardry between the covers of some Marvel mags once again—where it has always belonged! (Now if only a cat named S.O. would dig up our phone number again!—Oh well, we can always dream!)

ITEM! Ever wonder what Marvel was like in the "good old days"? Well, now you'll know— you pick up a new hard-cover volume called **All in Color for a Dime!** It's published by Arlington Press, as the Christmas sale selection of the famous Nostalgia Book Club, and was edited by long-time comics legends Don Thompson and Dick Lupoff. Besides a hefty, humor-packed article by Don on **Captain America** and the crew as they were in the days of World War II, it also contains about a dozen other fact-filled features on the comics scene of yesterday—including one by a guy named Roy Thomas, written way back in 1962 when the Rascally One was a hard-working English teacher. (Any guesses now as to what Roy's gonna hand out as Christmas presents to about a zillion family members and friends? Oh well...it beats those autographed copies of the **AVENGERS** that he passed out last year!)

ITEM! **HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE** is becoming a "cause celebre" around the Bullpen. There are a handful of anti-Trimpeys who keep bombarding Stan's desk with letters demanding that we get a new artist to

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For months I've been wanting to yak with you about this subject, but it always gets shoved aside by something more urgent. Well, this time I'm gonna say it, no matter what! This time I'm out to give the great guys and gals who produce these mags a small portion of the glowing tribute they so richly deserve. Having spent almost all my life in comics, I can testify to never having known a more ethical or honorable creative group. I've seen artists sacrifice long hours to help other artists perfect their work—writers giving their time unflinchingly to polish another author's script. In this, a most highly competitive field, you'll rarely hear one artist deride another's work, but instead, the more talented the man, the more likely he is to provide advice, support, and encouragement to those who need it most. So here's to the titanically talented crew I work with; and to the equally gifted gang who toil for our competitors. Your work is demanding, your hours are long, your profession a lonely one. But you provide pleasure and enchantment to untold millions—and, though you may never meet them personally, they know you—respect you—they've taken you into their lives—and into their hearts. For you, and I, and all of us help them weave their most wondrous dreams.

Excelsior!
S. L.

draw of Greenskin—claiming that even Irving Forbush could do a better job. If they were writing to the **FANTASTIC FOUR**, we'd swear they're Yancy Streeters. But the odd thing is this—WE think Herb's one of the greatest additions to our stupefying staff since Raquel Welch (No, Norman—she ain't working here. Calm down!)—and the **HULK's** sales have been climbing ever since H.T. got his clutching little claws around his paint brush. We had a point that we were trying to make, but ever since mentioning Raquel, it seems to have slipped our minds. Oh well, we've run out of room now, anyway!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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SILVER SURFER #12: This one has witches, magic spells, the Surfer trapped at last—and the Abomination! Wow!

AVENGERS #72: The mystery of Scorpio solved! Captain Marvel returns! Plus—the most sinister new super-group of all!

THOR #172: Dr. Blake must sacrifice Thor to save Jane Foster, the girl he once loved! It's the Mind Slave!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #122: Here comes the scorpion, from out of Spider-Man's past, to destroy Cap and Agent 13!

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HULK #124: Bruce Banner and Betty Ross married? The Rhino says No—and so does the revenge-crazed leader! A milestone!

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AND, OF COURSE

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Wow!



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SOON, BACK AT THE MIDTOWN APARTMENT WHICH THE X-MEN KEEP AS THEIR CITY HQ...

THE BOYS ARE BACK, THANKS HEAVENS!

IF ONLY WE HADN' BEEN OUT SHOPPING WHEN THEY LOCATED THAT MUTANT...

WE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO, WARREN.

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! I'LL SEE TO THESE STRANGE BURNS ON HANK'S FACE!

WILL I EVER PLAY THE COMB-AND-TISSUE PAPER AGAIN, MA'AM?

THIS IS SERIOUS, BEAST!

IT'S AS IF YOU'VE BEEN BADLY SUNBURNED... AND YOU'LL NEED LOTS OF REST!

THE X-MEN WILL FIND THE MUTANT CALLED SUNFIRE...

BUT THEY'LL DO IT WITHOUT HENRY C. MCCOY!

THEN YOU KNOW THAT HANK HERE GOT THE WORST OF THE DEAL

AND AS USUAL, THE PRESS ENDED UP BLAMING THE WHOLE THING ON THE X-MEN!

MAKES ME WISH WE'D GONE STRAIGHT HOME WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM KA-ZAR COUNTRY!

WHILE SEVERAL DOZEN BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, SHIRO!

YET, EVEN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE IT ALL SEEMED SOMEHOW WRONG!

WRONG? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, NEPHEW...

THANK YOU, UNCLE!

NO, UNCLE I HAVE FORGOTTEN NOTHING!

"I REMEMBER WELL THE SCENES I NEVER SAW..."

THE SEARING, ATOMIC BLAST WHICH MADE A SMOLDERING RUIN OF OUR NATIVE NAROSNAMA

JUST AS I REMEMBER THAT IT MADE ANDRELL'S INVALID OF MY MOTHER... MANY MILES FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY!

"I REMEMBER THAT SHE DIED A FEW YEARS LATER... ON THE VERY NIGHT I WAS BORN."

"BUT, MOST OF ALL, I REMEMBER A NIGHT NOT LONG AGO... WHEN YOU TOOK ME TO A CERTAIN PLACE IN HIROSHIMA..."

BUT, I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU WISH ME TO TAKE THIS BURNT, BARREN SOIL INTO MY HANDS.

YOU SHALL SEE!

THESE ARE ALL THAT REMAIN OF THE RUINS, SHIRO!

YES... I KNOW...

"AND THAT YOU, DEAR UNCLE TOMO, HELPED MY FATHER REAR ME TO MANHOOD..."

THEN... I WAS RIGHT!

LISTEN TO ME, NEPHEW!

AAARRHHH!

THE VERY TOUCH OF IT... SEEMS TO SET ME ON FIRE!

I FEEL AS IF... A RAGING FURNACE... BURNED WITHIN MY BREAST!

YOU ARE A MUTANT... AS I ALWAYS SUSPECTED!

POINT YOUR FINGERS EARTHWARD, AND YOU SHALL SEE PROOF OF WHAT I SAY!

YES... I SHALL... BUT, WHAT...?

FIRE! THE BLAZING FIRE OF THE SUN ITSELF...

...HURTLING FROM MY OUTSTRETCHED FINGERTIPS!

THEN, I AM A MUTANT... ONE OF THOSE BORN WITH DORMANT BUT DEADLY POWERS!

DORMANT NO LONGER, BOY!

I, I WILL, MY UNCLE

I SHALL AVENGE THE INCALCULABLE WRONG DONE MY PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE, THESE MANY YEARS AGO!

NOW SPEAK... SPEAK THE SACRED OATH WHICH I HAVE TAUGHT YOU IN SECRET SINCE CHILDHOOD!

SPEAK!

WELL SAID, NEPHEW!

ALWAYS I SENSED THAT SUCH POWER WOULD BE YOURS, WHEN YOU WERE COME OF AGE!

SOON, YOU SHALL WIELD IT... IN A WAY THE WORLD SHALL NEVER FORGET!

YOU STORE AND DISCHARGE THE POWER OF THE SUN ITSELF, SHIRO.

BUT FIRST THERE WERE THE LONG, HIDDEN HOURS OF PRACTICE...

I SHALL SMITE THE ETERNAL ENEMY, HUMBLE HIM, WITH ALL THE VAST POWERS AT MY COMMAND.

SO DO I, SHIRO YOSHIDA SWEAR!

THUS, WHEN YOU STRIKE AT LAST...

YOU MUST WEAR OUR ANCIENT COLORS AND BE KNOWN AS

SUNFIRE!

"AND ALWAYS, YOU WERE THERE, UNCLE, TRAINING ME AND EVER FANNING THE FLAME OF MY OWN YOUTHFUL HATRED!"

MY HARNESS' POWERS EVEN ENABLE ME TO FLY!

I AM READY AT LAST, READY TO FACE THE ENEMY!

9

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...AND, I KNOW THAT THE ENEMY IS...THE AMERICANS!

THEN MAKE READY, SHIRO...FOR THE SUPREME TEST IS AT HAND!

THE MOMENT WHEN AMERICA IS HUMBLING IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD!

...EVEN HERE, NEAR THE U.N., IT WON'T BE EASY TO PICK UP THAT MUTANT'S TRAIL!

MAYBE NOT...BUT COMPARED TO THE BATTLE WE HAD KEEPING THE BEAST AT HOME IN BED...

IT'LL HAVE TO BE A SNAP!

IN FACT, I THINK WE JUST STRUCK PAY DIRT!

ANGEL...I'M GETTING A STRONG READING FROM DIRECTLY BELOW!

I'M GONE LITTLE LEADER

YEESS!!- I SURE HOPE CYCLOPS KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

THE MOVING CAR HE WANTED ME TO CHECK OUT IS...

...A DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE!

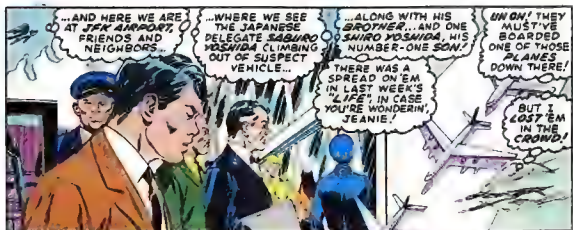
IF WE INTERFERE WITH ONE OF THOSE, WE'LL BE IN INTERNATIONAL HOT WATER!

SCOTT...DO YOU THINK OUR CEREBRO UNIT COULD BE MISTAKEN?

NOT ONE CHANCE IN A ZILLION, JEAN!

BUT, TELL WARREN JUST TO FOLLOW THE CAR, FOR THE TIME BEING!

WE'LL DROP BACK OUT OF SIGHT...AND YOU CAN KEEP ANGEL IN MENTAL CONTACT!



...AND HERE WE ARE
AT JFK AIRPORT,
FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS...

...WHERE WE SEE
THE JAPANESE
DELEGATE **SABURO**
YOSHIDA CLIMBING
OUT OF SUSPECT
VEHICLE...

...ALONG WITH HIS
BROTHER... AND ONE
SHIRO YOSHIDA, HIS
NUMBER-ONE SON!

UN ON! THEY
MUST'VE
BOARDED
ONE OF THOSE
PLANES
DOWN THERE!

THERE WAS A
SPREAD ON 'EM
IN LAST WEEK'S
'LIFE', IN CASE
YOU'RE WONDERIN',
JEANIE!

BUT I
LOST 'EM
IN THE
CROWD!



STILL, IT'S EASY
ENOUGH TO
CHECK EACH
PLANE OUT AFTER
IT'S AIRBORNE!

IF I'M LUCKY,
MAYBE
NOBODY'LL
EVEN SEE
ME--!

HEY! WHAT'S
THAT...
PULLING
SENSATION?



THAT BLASTED
THING IS
SCOOPIN' ME
IN... LIKE IT
WAS A VACUUM
CLEANER!

NOTHING
I CAN DO...
EXCEPT KEEP
FIGHTING...
TILL THE
END...



HOLY CROW!
WARREN GOT
TOO NEAR
THE JET'S
INTAKE!

NOW HE'S
REALLY IN
FOR IT!

WE'VE GOT
TO HELP
HIM-- IF
WE CAN!



ICE! IT'S FORMING
A BARRIER IN FRONT
OF ME!

AND JEANIE'S
GOT ME
TELEKINETI-
CALLY...
I CAN FEEL
IT!

THEY'VE
BAILED
ME OUT
AGAIN!

WHILE, ONLY A FEW METAL-PLATED FEET AWAY...

I TELL YOU, BILL, THERE WAS A MAN OUT THERE... A MASKED MAN WITH WINGS!

MAYBE IT WAS THE LONE RANGER'S GUARDIAN ANGEL!

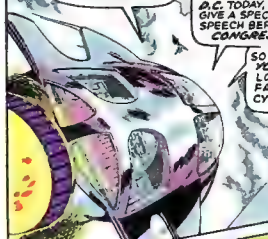
BY THE WAY, FRED, THERE'S A 'SHRINK' FLYING BACK IN TOURIST CLASS...



...SURE GLAD YOU REMEMBERED THAT ARTICLE ON YOSHIDA THAT YOU READ, ANGEL!

YEAH... 'CAUSE NOW WE KNOW HE'S DUE IN D.C. TODAY, TO GIVE A SPECIAL SPEECH BEFORE CONGRESS!

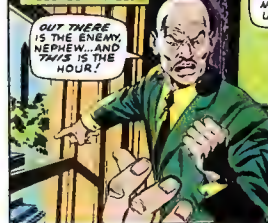
SO WHY YOUR LONG FACE, CYKE?



AND SOON, IN A SUITE IN ONE OF THE CITY'S PLUSHEST HOTELS

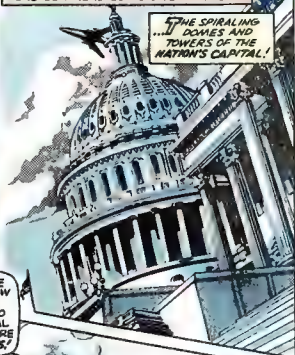
OUT THERE IS THE ENEMY, NEPHEW... AND THIS IS THE HOUR!

YOU NEED NOT REMIND ME, MY UNCLE!



WITHIN THE HOUR, THE SLEEK SKYBORNE CRUISER REACHES ITS DESTINATION...

THE SPIRALING DOMES AND TOWERS OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL!



I WAS JUST THINKING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FALLOUT, BOBBY...

...IF ONE OF YOSHIDA'S PARTY IS REALLY OUT FOR BLOOD... AMERICAN BLOOD!

TODAY THE SOFT AND THE DECADENT SHALL TREMBLE, AS THEY DID DECADES AGO...

...BEFORE THE SYMBOL OF THE RISING SUN!!





WHAT KIND OF UNREASONING TREASON DO YOU SPEAK?

WHAT...?



SILENCE!

I DARE NOT GUESS AT THE FULL MEANING OF YOUR WORDS, MY SON,

BUT, THE OLD QUARRELS ARE DEAD... AND THEY MUST BE FORGOTTEN!

DO YOU HEAR ME, UNGRATEFUL ONE?

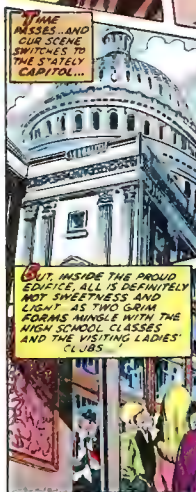


YES... MY FATHER...

WITH A SINGLE BLOW I COULD...

NO! HE IS MY FATHER... IT WOULD BE BLASPHEMY!

BUT, HE SHALL CHANGE HIS MIND... LATER...



TIME PASSES... AND OUR SCENE SWITCHES TO THE STately CAPITOL...

BUT, INSIDE THE PROUD EDIFICE, ALL IS DEFINITELY NOT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT, AS TWO GRIM FORMS MINGLE WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES AND THE VISITING LADIES' CLUBS.

SCOTT... ISN'T THAT SABURO YOSHIDA, FOLLOWING HIS SON INTO THAT SEALED-OFF WING?

SHOULDN'T WE SHADOW THEM... OR SOMETHING?

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, JEAN UNTIL AND UNLESS THE ONE WHO'S SUNFIRE TIPS HIS HAND!

AND THEN, I ONLY PRAY IT ISN'T TOO LATE!





AND, AT THAT VERY
MOMENT, IN A NEARBY
CLOAKROOM...

SO...THAT WHICH
I FEARED IS
INDEED TRUE!

MY
SON IS
THE DOG
THEY
CALL...
SUN-
FIRE!

PLEASE
STAND
ASIDE,
MY
FATHER!



NO! YOU SHALL
NOT DISGRACE
YOUR FATHER...
AND YOUR
COUNTRY...!

YOU ARE
TOO OLD...
TOO SOFT
TO UNDER-
STAND!

WHAT
I DO,
I DO
FOR MY
COUNTRY!



I WILL SEE
TO YOUR
FATHER,
SHIRO!

NOW GO
...AND DO
WHAT YOU
CAME TO
DO!



THOUGH I HAVE CALLED
MY FATHER TRAITOR,
IN MY HEART I KNOW
HE IS ONLY CONFUSED...
MISTAKEN!

HE HAS DWELT
TOO LONG AMONG
THE AMERICANS,
AND HAS
FORGOTTEN
THE EVIL THEY
DID...

...BOTH TO OUR
HOMELAND...
AND TO MY
MOTHER!

BUT, MY UNCLE HAS
NOT LET ME FORGET
SINCE I WAS BUT AN
INFANT UPON HIS
KNEE!

AND NOW, I HAVE
THE POWER TO
ERASE THE STAIN
UPON MY NATION'S
HONOR!

WHEN THAT PROUD DOME
STANDS IN SMOKING RUINS,
THE AMERICANS SHALL KNOW
THE FULL FURY OF THE
RISING SUN!



ONE
SINGLE,
SUN-BORN
BLAST
WILL--

WHAT IN THE NAME OF
ALL MY ANCESTORS?

THE WINGED
AMERICAN
MUTANT--
HERE--
BUT NOW--

A LITTLE BIRD
TOLD ME, PAL!



THEN YOU SHALL
CURSE THE DAY
THAT YOU NEEDED
HIS CALL, FOOL!

MISSED
ME--BUT
WE SINGED
MY WINGS
--BAD!



NOW, A
FINAL
BURST,
AND--

WAIT!
SOMETHING
HALTS MY
FIERY
BLAST!

NOT
SOMETHING,
BUT
SOMEBODY.
NAMESLY, THE
EVER-PRESENT
ICEMAN!

BUT TO SAVE
MY RECKLESS
HIDE, HE
HADDA FROST
UP MY WINGS!

I'M OUT
OF THIS
FIGHT,
FOR THE
DURATION!



TWICE
THE ONE
CALLED
ICEMAN
HAS
DIVERTED
ONE OF MY
ATTACKS!

WE
SHALL
NEVER
DO SO
AGAIN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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HERE GOES, SCOTT... BUT I STILL WISH...

DON'T EVEN SAY IT, GIRL!

FROM HERE ON, IT'S CYCLOPS' SHOW!

JEANIE GOT ME HERE JUST IN TIME!

OUR FIRE-BREATHING FOE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ZEROING IN FOR THE KILL... ON THIS DOME!

I HOPE I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP HIM!



NOW, RAVAGERS OF MY ANCESTRAL HOMELAND...

BUT, THE NEXT SOUL-SCORCHING INSTANT...

THE INFERNAL DOME STILL STANDS!

SOME NEW FORCE HALTED MY SOLAR BLASTS!

YOU DESTROYED WITH HEAT... AND NOW YOUR CAPITAL SHALL BE ENGULFED BY IT!

THE POWER OF THE ATOM AND THE POWER OF THE SUN... ARE ONE!

KRA-KOW!

YET--THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!!



BUT IT *IS* POSSIBLE, FRIEND...

EVERY BIT AS POSSIBLE AS... **FORGIVING YOUR ENEMIES!**

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE STILL FIGHTING A WAR THAT ENDED **DECADES AGO!**

MY FORCE BEAMS ARE **CANCELLING OUT HIS...** BUT JUST **BARELY!**

YOU--THE ONE THEY CALL **CYCLOPS!**

BUT, NO AMERICAN DOG SHALL DETERME FROM MY PURPOSE...

FOOL! DID YOU THINK I'D BE **UNPREPARED** FOR ONE LAST, **DESPERATE LEAP?**

NOT **MAN--** AND NOT **MUTANT!!**

SOMETHING--PULLING MY **HEAD BACK--** WITH GREAT **FORCE--!**



NO MATCH... FOR HIS **SPEED!**

WHEN HE **DROPS ME...** IT'LL BE **ALL OVER!**



UNNH!

IT'S--**JEAN!!**



STILL, AT LEAST **ONE** PHASE OF MY PLAN IS **WORKING!**

TO GET AT ME, HE'S **FORCED TO COME CLOSER...** **CLOSER...** UNTIL...

NOW!

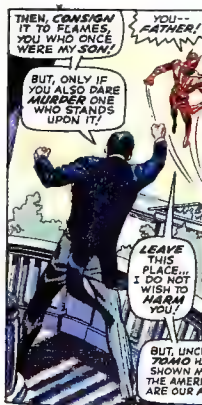


YES...OF COURSE...THE **GIRL** ...SHE WHO EVEN NOW **LOWERS THE X-MAN SAFELY** TO THE GROUND!

STILL, SHE HAS **ACHIEVED NOTHING!**

THE **CAPITOL** SHALL **YET GO UP** IN **SUN-SPAWNED FLAMES!**

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



THEN, CONSIGN IT TO FLAMES, YOU WHO ONCE WERE MY SON!

BUT, ONLY IF YOU ALSO DARE MURDER ONE WHO STANDS UPON IT!

YOU-- FATHER!

LEAVE THIS PLACE... I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU!

BUT, UNCLE TOMO HAS SHOWN ME THE AMERICANS ARE OUR FOES!

TOMO IS A SICK MAN, SHIRO... FEEDING THE FIRE OF HIS HATRED WITH THE EMBERS OF A LONG-DEAD WAR!

RENOUNCE HIM... LEST HIS DREAMS OF GLORY BECOME A WAKING NIGHTMARE FOR TWO NATIONS!



PLEASE, MY FATHER... YOUR WORDS MAKE MY HEAD SPIN IN CONFUSION!

DO NOT MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO MEN... TWO WORLDS...

YES, CHOOSE, MY SON... AND CHOOSE NOW!!



YOU NEED NOT CHOOSE, SHIRO!

I SHALL MAKE THE CHOICE FOR YOU!

KRAK!



FATHER!!

BUT, NOTHING CAN STOP THE LIMP FORM WHICH TOPPLES FROM THE HIGH BALCONY...



...OR THE WHITE-HOT BURST WHICH, AN INSTANT LATER, SNIFFS OUT A LIFE WHICH HAD FED ON HATRED AND HOLOCAUST...

AAARRRHH!

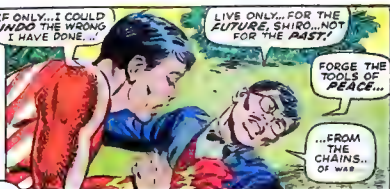


THEN, BELOW...

FATHER.. FATHER..

I... DID NOT MEAN THIS TO HAPPEN.

I KNOW...!



IF ONLY... I COULD UNDO THE WRONG I HAVE DONE...

LIVE ONLY... FOR THE FUTURE, SHIRO... NOT FOR THE PAST!

FORGE THE TOOLS OF PEACE...

...FROM THE CHAINS OF WAR



WE'LL WAIT OVER THERE, SON...



WE... WE MAY AS WELL GO... THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO! AND YET...

SHIRO'S MOTHER WAS CAUGHT IN THE HIROSHIMA BLAST, YOU SAID?

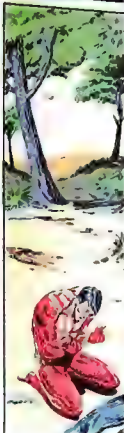
YES... THAT MUST BE WHY HE'S A MUTANT!

IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE REASONED WITH HIM... REACHED HIM IN TIME, SOMEHOW!

...MAYBE THE NEXT ONE...



YEAH... MAYBE THE NEXT ONE...!

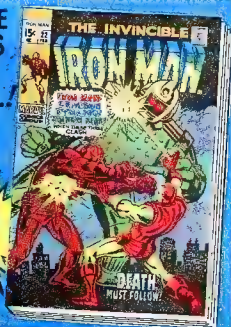


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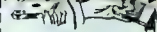
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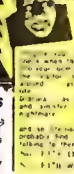
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MONEYMAKER

One of the best. Money Maker. No need to shout. Just push the button and your voice will be heard. No need to shout. Just push the button and your voice will be heard.



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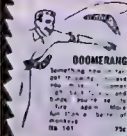


Most people like to drink up and down. This is just the opposite. Made of fresh lamb's wool. No need to shout. Just push the button and your voice will be heard.



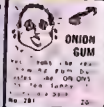
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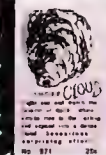
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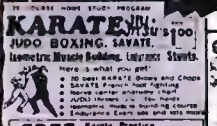
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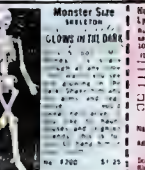
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Mutant Mail-Box

ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO:
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Nostalgia. That's all I can say about this month's *Marvels*. I loved them all! Gil Kane back (yay). Kirby/Lee better than ever (double yay). Before I run off and explode from exuberance, let me comment on X-MEN #60.

The cover: great, best ever done by Adams. Story: excellent. Too bad they don't give Hugo's to comics (you'd get a barrel full). "In the Shadow of Sauron." Sauron where did I read of Sauron? Of course, TOLKIEN! And inside... Lykos reading "The Fellowship of the Ring." I was afraid that if I turned the page, I'd see Frodo, Bilbo, Gandalf, Sam, and Sauron's mission. Gollum! Darn, I didn't! Oh well, who says Marvel isn't improving? Right now I'm expecting a certain genius from *Flowers for Algernon* to team up with Henry Pym to find a cure for athlete's foot.

Stan, you are magnificently imaginative. So are you, Roy. I couldn't find anything wrong with your yarns (and I usually find something wrong). Boy, if next month is as good as this month I'm going to subscribe and not take any chances in missing any issues.

D. Jon Zimmerman, 910 7th Ave.
Devils Lake, North Dakota 58301

Glad you liked it, D. J. Two points of interest! Hugo's (from *Hugo Gernsback*, founder of the first science fiction magazine) are awards given out at the World Science Fiction convention each year. The analogous award in comics is the *Ally* (from *Ally Oop*) compiled from the votes of pros and fans, and usually presented at the yearly Comic Art Convention.

Funny you should mention *Flowers*, though. While Chazzy is not really up to working with Henry Pym at present, his author—Daniel Keyes—once did some editorial work for us a long time back!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

I've been blowing my mind for about a week now over Sauron kicking around in *Tierra Del Fuego* (in X-MEN #60, natch). The other day, after reading it for the 90th time, I decided I needed a rest from all that greatness.

So, I turned to—where else? NOT BRAND ECHH! In the third story of ish #4 (about the X-Men, written by Roy Thomas) I noticed a sign that said (get this!) "Sauron is alive and well in Argentina." Although I realize that there's a 50-50 chance that the Sauron in X-MEN #60 was alive and well in Chile, I still kinda flips me, Roy, you must be related to Larry Frosk, predicting what your own stories will be about nearly two years in advance! That's really wild!

Many fans have been awarded no-prizes for pointing out times when you've been ahead of science. Do I get one for noting an instance where you're ahead of yourself? (Although you're that way most of the time when you're not behind yourselves.)

Well, as that Yancy Street prophet, Irving Forbush, would say, "Marvel shall live forever!" (I think).

RFO: Jana C. Holdingsworth, 45 E 2nd St
Port Angeles, Washington 98362

Jana, your letter left us beside ourselves—with joy, that is! One of those standard questions that Roy has to answer when fans come by is "where do you get your ideas?" Now we know! He steals them from the subconscious of a guy named Roy Thomas, of about two years back! Whew, a mighty marvel enigme has been solved!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Irving,

You guys did it again! You left me stranded on the edge of my seat, having to wait a whole month to read the conclusion to X-MEN #60 which, by the way, was the greatest! However, by reading "Stan's Soapbox" I was happy to learn that you will try to cut down on continued sagas. I think this can do no harm to you or to your readers. Your sales will probably go up. For instance, a person has never read a Marvel before so he buys one. He opens the book and the X-Men are in the middle of a big battle about which he knows nothing. Naturally, he won't enjoy the mag and, therefore, won't buy another.

On the other hand, if the same person bought, say DAREDEVIL #7 he knew more about what was going on so you gave him a better chance to like the mag. Planting fresh ideas in your heads is another example, in the words of Stan-the-man (or was it Irving Forbush?), of how we, the readers, strive to make your life easier! Excelsior!

Bill Frick, RR#3

Decatur, Indiana 46733

You DID it, Bill! You went through just about the reasons Stan thought up for wanting to try to do without continued stories for awhile. Glad to see there's someone out there who likes the idea!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

When I first bought X-MEN #60 and saw the mind-shattering name of Sauron on the cover, I thought it was just a coincidence. But as I slowly turned the pages what was this I saw? Was it possible? Yes, yes, the Marvel madmen have discovered the wild, wonderful world of J.R.R. Tolkien. So from one hobby to another—congratulations on a great story and remember Frodo lives!

Leah Brooks, 512 West E. Street
Sierra City, North Carolina 27344

That he does, Leah! But, we can't use HIM as a super-villain! Roy, Allyn, and a few other Bullpen-ers have been Middle-Earth nuts for some time, and Roy thought that to have a *Mutant-Menacer* who had read the trilogy and had decided to assume a name of evil was one way to show our appreciation to Tolkien for many hours of pleasure!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer)—A divinely-inspired "No-Prize" winner.
Q.N.S. (Quite "Nuff Sayer")—A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame)—One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
F.F.F. (Fearless Front Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

As a recent convert to Marveldom's ranks I hesitate to send in a gripe as my first contribution to your correspondence. Naturally, I believe your comics to be the only ones on the market which are worth reading and they really are. I am particularly impressed by the superlative work on the X-MEN and have been ransacking small bookstores and magazine centres for old issues of which I now have a goodly assortment. The artwork on the mag is superlative, particularly since the change of artists in the Living Pharaoh series.

However, a disquieting thought came to me while reading X-MEN #60 over my breakfast coffee this morning and I thought I would register this thought before leaving for work. To anticipate the plot a bit, it would appear that Sauron's eyes are to be a force for evil. If this is true, certain alterations in his cranial structure will be required. Page 13, panel 1 gives a close-up of Pieronadan's head and page 17, panel 3 shows Sauron for the first time with the same head. In both cases the eyes are set on the side of the head, like any bird's. However, in the last panel, you have the beams from both eyes concentrating on one point. This is patently impossible. A bird is incapable of looking at the same point with both eyes at the same time. Birds look at everything from the side. Moreover, it is impossible to look into both of such eyes at the same time.

Please give Alex Summers a break. He has tremendous potential as a character, not just as a power source for various vampire-type super-villains.

I would never dare to criticize in this manner if the rest of the work were not of such an exceptional nature. The Canadian vote in solidly MARVEL!

A. J. Born, 145 Canora St.
Winnipeg 10, Man., Canada

Our local ornithological expert says otherwise, A. J. But, even if you are right about Sauron's eyes, if you look closely at the coloring in the last panel, you'll see the two white beams from Sauron's eyes striking at the further edges of the Angel's eyes, with a blue-ish patch in between. So the beams do not really concentrate on a single point... just the area of eyes in the victim's head!

Otherwise, glad you liked the hook, Brother Born!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Where are the true X-Men? Who are these grotesque, misshapen imposters created by Neal Adams? I refer to issues #56-60 in which Neal Adams has done what Magneto, Factor 3, and all the various other evil forces which have tried to destroy the X-Men failed to do. He has destroyed them by creating a load-like and twisted Beast, a glorified piece of ice out of Iceman, a shriveled and twisted creature out of Cyclops, a gross birdman out of the Angel, and Marvel Girl is just not Marvel Girl.

The covers of issues #58-60 are an example of what I have been saying. The person on the cover of issue #59 is a crude impersonation of Cyclops. Never have the X-Men looked so unreal. Please give us back Don Heck or Werner Roth for the sake of the X-Men as well as for my sake as a loyal Marvelite! I enjoy all the Marvel comics and the X-Men stories are great despite the recently bad artwork. I have nothing against Neal personally and am sure he is a great guy but his artwork needs a little practice.

I feel that you should make Havak and Larna Dane members of the X-Men. Keep on turning out those mighty Marvel masterpieces until the Silver Surfer wipes out and Irving Forbush changes his name. I say make mine Marvel. Nuff said!

Ronald Barrington, Box 441
Linden, Texas 75563

We're glad to get your opinion, Ron! But, we expect that we'll be hearing some strong comments on your opinion of Neal Adams striking and stylized artistic interpretation of the X-Men from our other magnificent mutant-buffs!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

During the last few months I have carefully appraised almost every comic book title on the market. My goal was to find the best one of all. After shuffling through hundreds and examining the relative merits of each, I finally made a choice.

In my opinion, the best comic book is Marvel's X-MEN. It is superior in every way. Roy Thomas is one of the most imaginative writers in the field today. His stories are fast-paced and jammed with action. His best efforts to date seem to have been on the X-Men. As many as a dozen different characters coexist within each issue. This factor contributes tremendously to the total realistic effect. Roy's latest character, Sauron, is too good to deserve an icy grave. I am confident that Sauron will return. Tom Palmer, the inker, has always distinguished himself. He is well known for the clarity of line in his work.

But, X-MEN's greatest asset is Neal Adams, the artist. He is also the artist, undeniably the best pencil-pusher anywhere. His robust artwork has seldom been matched for vitality. His skill as a colorist constantly challenges the palette. It was primarily Mr. Adams who swayed my opinion in favor of the X-Men. Last, but not least, Stan Lee deserves a note of recognition for bringing together the superb team of Thomas-Adams-Palmer. You may not be able to do it again, Stan, but in that respect I hope I'm wrong.

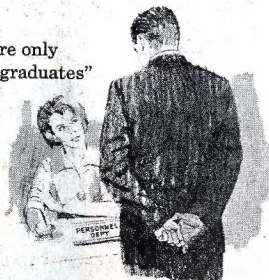
David Parsons, R.D.J.
Covington, Pennsylvania 16917

Thanks for the kind words, Dave! Hope you liked this current ish... with Tom doing both inking and coloring, as well! Tom, you may remember, has done coloring for a lot of the old Doc Strange stories.

Another thing you might be watching for, is nefarious Neal's work in our bizarre books, TOWER OF SHADOWS and CHAMBER OF DARKNESS. Neal wrote and drew "One Hungers" in TOWER #2, and is thinking about a few future stories, including one possibility from the pen of H. P. Lovecraft!

Just one other thing... if you think that Roy's been crowding the pages of X-MEN with dozens of characters, just shake an eye towards the current AVENGERS! But, better brace yourself first, frantic one!

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